

Docket AUS920010254US1

Appl. No.: 09/935,413
Filing Date: 08/23/2001**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****DEC 11 2006****IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~evaluating comparing~~ suppliers, the method comprising the steps of:

 sending survey questions as question sets, including answers for user input selection, for receipt by supplier computer systems and for displaying by browsers of the supplier computer systems;

 sending programming instructions for receipt and execution as applets by the browsers of the supplier computer systems, the instructions being for causing the supplier computer systems to return supplier survey answers to a server responsive to the applets processing user inputs and the survey questions, wherein the answers are defined in a certain format as data elements included in responding documents;

 parsing the data elements from the responding documents; and

 evaluating the data elements.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the certain format for the responding documents has answers identifiable as strings of text surrounded by text markups, wherein the text markups include tags describing the data elements.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the questions and their corresponding answers are organized in categories according to subject matter.
4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the categories include development process, quality, enterprise, platform, operating system and environment.
5. (canceled)

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6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, -5, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

receiving survey inputs from an one or more evaluators, wherein the evaluator inputs define the evaluator requirements, wherein the evaluating of the data elements comprises:
comparing the data elements by a computer application to corresponding ones of the evaluator requirements, wherein the data elements provide quantitative values and the evaluator inputs define evaluator requirements as quantitative values for the respective data elements, such a evaluator requirement quantitative value indicating a desired amount for the corresponding data element, and wherein the comparing produces quantitative correlations between respective evaluator requirements and data elements.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

sending survey questions for receipt by the evaluator's computer system;
sending programming instructions for receipt and execution by the evaluator's computer system, the instructions being for causing the evaluator's computer system to return the evaluator survey inputs to the server, wherein the evaluator survey inputs answers are included in one or more evaluator responding documents and are defined in a certain format as data elements included in the one or more evaluator responding documents.

8. (currently amended) A computer program product for comparing suppliers, the computer program product comprising: stored on a tangible, computer readable medium, for evaluating supplier surveys, said computer program product having instructions for execution by a computer, which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to implement a method, the instructions comprising:

first instructions for sending survey questions as question sets, including answers for user input selection, for receipt by supplier computer systems and for displaying by browsers of the supplier computer systems;

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second instructions for receipt and execution as applets by the browsers of the supplier computer systems, the execution of the second instructions causing the supplier computer systems to return supplier survey answers to a server responsive to the applets processing user inputs and the survey questions, wherein the answers are defined in a certain format as data elements included in responding documents;

third instructions for parsing the data elements from the responding documents; and

fourth instructions for evaluating the data elements.

9. (original) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the certain format for the responding documents has answers identifiable as strings of text surrounded by text markups, wherein the text markups include tags describing the data elements.

10. (original) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the questions and their corresponding answers are organized in categories according to subject matter.

11. (original) The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the categories include development process, quality, enterprise, platform, operating system and environment.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim ~~8, 12~~, comprising fifth instructions for receiving survey inputs from one or more an evaluators, wherein the evaluator inputs define the evaluator requirements, wherein the evaluating of the data elements comprises:

comparing the data elements by a computer application to corresponding ones of the evaluator requirements, wherein the data elements provide quantitative values and the evaluator inputs define evaluator requirements as quantitative values for the respective data elements, such a evaluator requirement quantitative value indicating a desired amount for the corresponding data element, and wherein the comparing produces quantitative correlations between respective evaluator requirements and data elements.

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14. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 13, comprising:
~~sixth~~ instructions for sending survey questions for receipt by the evaluator's computer system;

evaluator survey sending seventh instructions for receipt and execution by the evaluator's computer system, execution of the evaluator survey sending seventh instructions by the evaluator's computer system causing the evaluator's computer system to return evaluator survey inputs to the server, wherein the evaluator survey inputs answers are included in one or more evaluator responding documents and are defined in a certain format as data elements included in the one or more evaluator responding documents.

15. (currently amended) A system for ~~comparing~~ evaluating suppliers surveys, the system comprising:

a processor for connecting to a network; and

a storage device coupled to the processor, wherein the storage device has stored ~~thereon~~ is for storing:

survey questions;

first instructions operable with the processor for sending the survey questions as question sets, including answers for user input selection, to supplier computer systems for displaying by browsers of the supplier computer systems;

second instructions operable with the processor for sending to supplier computer systems, the second instructions being for execution as applets by the browsers causing the supplier computer systems to return supplier survey answers to the system responsive to the applets processing user inputs and the survey questions, wherein the answers are defined in a certain format as data elements included in responding documents;

third instructions operable with the processor for parsing the data elements from the responding documents; and

fourth instructions operable with the processor for evaluating the data elements.

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16. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the certain format for the responding documents has answers identifiable as strings of text surrounded by text markups, wherein the text markups include tags describing the data elements.

17. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the questions and their corresponding answers are organized in categories according to subject matter.

18. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the categories include development process, quality, enterprise, platform, operating system and environment.

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The system of claim 15, 19, wherein the storage device is for storing:

sixth instructions operable with the processor for receiving survey inputs from ~~an one~~ or more evaluators, wherein the evaluator inputs define the evaluator requirements; wherein the evaluating of the data elements comprises:

comparing the data elements by a computer application to corresponding ones of the evaluator requirements, wherein the data elements provide quantitative values and the evaluator inputs define evaluator requirements as quantitative values for the respective data elements, such a evaluator requirement quantitative value indicating a desired amount for the corresponding data element, and wherein the comparing produces quantitative correlations between respective evaluator requirements and data elements.

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21. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the storage device is for storing:

~~seventh~~ instructions operable with the processor for sending survey questions for receipt by the evaluator's computer system;

evaluator survey sending ~~eight~~ instructions operable with the processor for sending programming instructions for receipt and execution by the evaluator's computer system, the evaluator survey sending ~~eight~~ instructions being for causing the evaluator's computer system to return evaluator survey inputs to the server, wherein the evaluator survey inputs ~~answers~~ are included in one or more evaluator responding documents and are defined in a certain format as data elements included in the one or more evaluator responding documents.

22. (new) The method of claim 6, wherein the evaluator inputs include weights for the respective evaluator requirements, and the method includes:

the computer application combining the correlations responsive to the weights.

23. (new) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the evaluator inputs include weights for the respective evaluator requirements, and the instructions include:

instructions for the computer application combining the correlations responsive to the weights.

24. (new) The system of claim 20, wherein the evaluator inputs include weights for the respective evaluator requirements, and wherein the storage device is for storing:

instructions for the computer application combining the correlations responsive to the weights.